IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Shafer, Ricky D.

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Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 5, 2007.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT A

Please enter this Preliminary Amendment as submission in connection with the applicant's Request for Continued Examination filed simultaneously herewith, and in response to the Final Office Action mailed September 12, 2006.

RESPONSE

Amendment to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.